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August 23, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket Numbers: 98N-1230; 96P-0418; 97P-0197

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing regarding your request for public comments on reducing egg borne diseases. In order to reduce these diseases, the FDA must do more than put bacteria warning labels on egg cartons and regulate egg refrigeration temperatures. These actions will not solve the problem by any means.

Direct action needs to be taken and the FDA should prohibit the practice of forced molting. It has been scientifically shown that forced molting promotes disease by destroying the starving hens' immune systems.

By banning the forced molting of laying hens it will eliminate the primary cause of infectious diseases in hens, eggs, and consumers of eggs. The FDA has jurisdiction to ban farm practices, such as forced molting, that injure human health. The FDA can and should stop this cruel practice which is directly linked to the contamination.

The FDA was petitioned in April 1998 to ban forced molting and this petition should be granted without further delay.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,


Kathy Peirce

98N-1230

C410

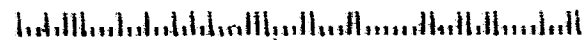


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CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number:

98N-1230/ *C410*

See File Number:

97P-0197/ *C411*

96P-0418/ *C410*